प्रदेश में जो एवरेज सेल हुई थी, कर्नाटक की सेल संपन्न हो चुकी है, आंध्र प्रदेश में अभी चल रही है, आंध प्रदेश की सेल का एवरेज प्राइस 39 प्लस 97 था। महोदय, परसों 2 मई तक आंध्र प्रदेश में जो सेल अभी तक हुई हैं, उस का एवरेज प्राइस 42.21 रु० पर किलो ग्राम है। इसलिए थोड़ी-सी बढ़ोतरी पिछले वर्ष की तुलना में अभी तक देखी गई है, लेकिन किसी स्टेज पर अगर यह कम होती है तो उसके लिए क्या स्टेप्स उठाने हैं, उस में आंध्र प्रदेश के मुख्यमंत्री भी लगभग रेगुलर बेसिस पर हम लोगों से कम्युनिकेट कर रहे हैं क्योंकि बहुत अधिक संख्या में लोग इससे प्रभावित हैं। जहां तक वहां आने का प्रश्न है, मैं या मेरे सहयोगी विद्यासागर राव जी जो आंध्र प्रदेश से ही हैं, हम लोग स्थिति से संपर्क बनाए हुए हैं और आवश्यकता होगी तो निश्चित रूप से हम वहां आकर उस स्थान पर स्टडी करने का प्रयास करेंगे।

*606 [The questioner (Suri Raj Kumar Dhoot) was absent. for answer *vide* page, —36-37]infra.

Facilities to unregistered tobacco growers of Karnataka

*607. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have agreed recently to consider the demand for extending facilities for crop loans, fertilizers, pesticides, etc. to the unregistered tobacco growers of Karnataka and for giving more representation to Karnataka tobacco growers on the Tobacco Board; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN : Sir, in reply to parts (a) and (b) of my question, the hon. Minister has replied, " 'No, Sir' and 'Does not arise' ". I would like to know from the Hon. Minister as to whether the small growers, the unregistered small growers, of tobacco from Karnataka have made a demand for providing crop loans, pesticides, etc. If so, even though the reply of the Minister is that the Government has not agreed to any such demand, I would like to know whether the Government is going to consider these demands of the small growers.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : Sir, as far as the issue pertaining to Karnataka is concerned, the principle question related to composition of the Tobacco Board. Now, as far as the demands that are being made are concerned, these demands

have not been agreed to by the Government because the Government has other indirect methodologies, whenever these demands are made, of supporting the farm growers. This year, the auctions in Karnataka have already been completed, and compared to the Minimum Support Price, the price has risen above that rate. Therefore, if such a situation arises, when the growers are in some form of a distress, the Government will, certainly, take these initiatives into consideration.

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN : Sir, my second supplementary is this. I would like to know whether the composition of the Tobacco Board is such that there is no proper representation of Karnataka in it. I would like to know the number of representatives in the Board from Karnataka.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : Sir, as regards representation of the two principal tobacco growing States, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, in the Tobacco Board, which is a statutory body, we have one representative of each State Government. It is identical.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Sir, eighty per cent of the tobacco production in Karnataka...

MR. CHAIRMAN : You put your supplementary.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Sir, you listen to me.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am going to listen, but I would listen to your supplementary.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Sir, eighty per cent of the tobacco produced in Karnataka is exported and we are earning foreign exchange. But, as far as Andhra Pradesh is concerned, only 20 per cent of the production of tobacco is being exported. As a result, the production looks to be more in Karnataka. Now, a restriction has been put; the producers have been asked not to produce, and penalty has been imposed on those who produce more. And, it is a fact that superior quality tobacco is produced in Karnataka. Sir, the growers of Karnataka are suffering. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister would look into this aspect and he will see to it that the penalty imposed is returned to the growers.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : Sir, as far as the quantum of production in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh is concerned, there is a crop size which is fixed as per the Regulation, and the crop size is fixed keeping in mind the factor as to how much demand is there in the domestic market and in the international market, because surplus production immediately leads to collapse of prices, which leads to distress

of the plantation growers. So, the crop size is fixed keeping this factor in mind. Despite this, because of certain social constraints, some of the plantation growers either have an excess growth or an unauthorised growth. For that purpose, penalty is imposed in order to discourage the growers of excess or unauthorised tobacco. This, besides economic growth, also has certain social constraints. So far, that proposal is continuing. As far as quality is concerned, it is the market which decides it, and this year, for instance, auctions are all over in Karnataka, and the average price across the season, which the Karnataka tobacco has fetched, is a little more than Rs. 43 per Kg.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, Question No. 608...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Sir, ...

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am calling Question No. 608... *(Interruptions)* It will not go on record. Yes, Question No. 608.

Action Plan for the broadcasting sector

*608. SHRIMATI SHABANA AZMI :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : †

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have set up a working group with representatives of Ministry of Finance, the Administrative Ministry, State Governments, financial institutions and the industry to work out an action plan for the broadcasting sector ;

(b) if so, what will be the main functions of this group;

(c) whether they have made any recommendations;

(d) if so, whether Government have accepted the recommendations of this group;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) by when, they are likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) Questions do not arise.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this question is related to entertainment industry, that is, films and T. V. And, entertainment industry is the

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy.